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Wennerstrom Tells How Easy It Was To Get U. S. Military Secrets for Reds

From Cable Dispatches
STOCKHOLM.

Swedish Col. Stig Wennerstrom, a spy for the Soviet Union over 15 years, found it an easy matter to obtain American defense secrets to pass on to Moscow, an official report said yesterday.

In secret pre-trial testimony made public yesterday, the Swedish Air Force officer and diplomat said that the information he supplied to Russian intelligence included data on the American Strategic Air Command and its nuclear capability and on Polaris atomic submarines.

EASY

As Swedish air attache in Washington from 1952 to 1957, Wennerstrom said, he had little difficulty obtaining such secret information from American industrial executives and Pentagon officials, including a man whom he described as "the head of the American intelligence service at that time."

"It was easy to get information if you indicated you were

interested in buying," Wennerstrom, 57, testified. "This was no problem for me, as I made purchases for the Swedish Air Force. The Air Force bought a great deal of material from the United States, and I visited many industries. It was easy to make contact with the top executives."

Wennerstrom did not elaborate on the identity of the American intelligence chief in the Pentagon who supposedly gave him information in 1952 in the belief Wennerstrom was a loyal allied officer.

The Defense Department in Washington said no one in the Pentagon at that time could have been correctly identified as "the head of the American intelligence service," since the Army, Navy and Air Force had separate intelligence divisions. The Central Intelligence Agency does not operate from the Pentagon.

Wennerstrom, who went on trial April 9 in Stockholm, also said he was permitted to visit the "technical branch" of the unspecified intelligence service in Washington. He added that he supplied Mos-

cow with information on the training of NATO fliers in Canada, where he visited several times.

LEBANON

In 1958, at the time of the Lebanon crisis, Wennerstrom visited a U. S. Air Force commander in Wiesbaden, West Germany, and later informed the Russians of the commander's hurried departure for Turkey, according to Wennerstrom's testimony. The American general had flown there to plan the movement of U. S. paratroopers by air to Lebanon.

In Wiesbaden, the Air Force said Gen. Frank P. Everest was commander-in-chief of the U. S. Air Force in Europe at that time.

Wennerstrom repeated a claim, denied by the U. S., that he began espionage work as an agent for the U. S. while serving as Swedish air attache in Moscow. He said another Swedish colonel, not identified and now dead, also worked for the U. S. and served as his contact man.